

## I-405 Projects Update

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*Edition 1, May 6, 2005*

### Introduction to I-405 Projects

Welcome to the project update e-mail for all Interstate 405 projects. This is the first e-mail update about freeway and interchange improvements up and down the I-405 corridor. For those of you who have received project updates or been involved in the I-405 Corridor Program or Nickel Improvement Projects, this e-newsletter incorporates those and other projects along I-405. This update includes projects funded prior to the recently approved \$8.5 billion statewide transportation investment package. The new funding (2005 Transportation Partnership Account) will help pay for future I-405 improvements.

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### I-405 HOV Direct Access Projects

Direct access ramps connect high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes directly to transit centers, park-and-ride lots, or local streets, eliminating the need for buses, carpools, and vanpools to cross multiple lanes of traffic to enter and exit the freeway. There are nine HOV direct access projects throughout the Puget Sound region. These projects are primarily funded by Sound Transit and designed and constructed by WSDOT to facilitate express bus service between regional urban centers. The three Sound Transit funded HOV direct access projects on I-405 are:

- Bellevue Direct Access/Access Downtown
- Totem Lake Freeway Station
- Renton Direct Access

### Bellevue Direct Access Project

In December 2004, WSDOT, Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue opened to traffic the final piece of the Bellevue Direct Access Project: the NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street HOV direct access ramps. This project provides improved access for buses, carpools and vanpools between I-405 and downtown Bellevue. We also completed improvements at the NE 4<sup>th</sup>, NE 8<sup>th</sup> and SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street interchanges. We delivered this project a year ahead of schedule and \$25 million under budget.

Crews are performing final paving and permanent striping, and we expect to complete all wrap-up work this spring. For more information, visit the [Access Downtown Web site](#).

## **Totem Lake Freeway Station Project**

This summer, crews will begin building direct access ramps and bridge across I-405 at NE 128<sup>th</sup> Street in Kirkland. This will provide improved access for buses, carpools and vanpools between the I-405 HOV lanes and the Kingsgate Park-and-Ride lot. It will also provide Kirkland drivers a new east-west route over I-405.

We advertised for construction bids on February 28. On May 4 we opened the bids we received, and we will announce the contractor in the next few weeks. We plan to begin construction in late June or early July, and we expect to open the bridge and ramps to traffic in late 2006.

In early June 2005, we will permanently close the bus stops on I-405 at NE 132<sup>nd</sup> (exact date to be determined). We will replace these stops with new ones at the NE 128<sup>th</sup> direct access ramps, to open in late 2006. During construction, a Sound Transit-funded King County Metro shuttle will operate between the Kingsgate Park-and-Ride lot and downtown Bellevue during peak hours. We'll provide details about the shuttle in upcoming e-mail updates.

For more information on this project, please visit the [Totem Lake Freeway Station Web site](#).

## **Renton Direct Access Project**

WSDOT is designing a new I-405 HOV interchange to be built at North 8<sup>th</sup> Street as part of the North Renton portion of the I-405 project. The new interchange will connect the I-405 HOV lanes directly to the center of North 8<sup>th</sup> Street and will be funded by Sound Transit. The interchange will improve travel speed, reliability and access for buses, carpools and vanpools between I-405 and downtown Renton.

The North Renton I-405 project team has completed conceptual engineering and is analyzing potential effects to the environment. WSDOT is also seeking funding for the North Renton portion of the I-405 project in this area, since the HOV direct access ramps are feasible only as a part of the larger project.

For more information on this project, please visit the [Renton Direct Access Project Web site](#).

## **I-405 Nickel Improvement Projects**

In spring 2003, the Washington State Legislature approved a Nickel Funding Package providing more than \$4 billion over 10 years for highway improvements projects throughout the state. Three of the "Nickel Projects," totaling \$485 million, are on I-405:

- Kirkland Nickel Improvement Project
- Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project
- Renton Nickel Improvement Project

These three projects are the first step toward achieving the [I-405 Master Plan](#), as detailed in the 2002 I-405 Corridor Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

## Kirkland Nickel Improvement Project

The Kirkland Nickel Improvement Project will reduce congestion through the "Kirkland Crawl," and complements the Totem Lake Freeway Station Project. The Kirkland Nickel Improvement Project is divided into two stages:

- **Stage 1** (2005-2007)
  - Add one northbound and one southbound I-405 lane from NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street to NE 124<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Initial improvement work toward relieving congestion at the NE 116<sup>th</sup> Street interchange
- **Stage 2** (planned for 2009-2011, *may* be accelerated by future funding)
  - Add one northbound I-405 lane from NE 70<sup>th</sup> to NE 85<sup>th</sup>
  - Add one southbound I-405 lane
    - From Highway 522 to NE 124<sup>th</sup> Street, and
    - From NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street to Highway 520
  - Complete work to relieve congestion at the NE 116<sup>th</sup> Street interchange

The project team has completed environmental studies. Contractors are developing proposals to build Stage 1, and we will select a contractor later this year. We plan to begin Stage 1 construction in late 2005.

For more information, please visit the [Kirkland Nickel Improvement Project Web site](#).

## Renton Nickel Improvement Project

The Renton Nickel Improvement Project will reduce congestion approaching the Highway 167 interchange and complements the recently completed Highway 167 flyover ramp. Specifically, we will:

- Add one northbound I-405 lane from Highway 181 to Highway 167
- Add one southbound I-405 lane from Highway 169 to Highway 167
- Extend the southbound HOV lane on Highway 167

Environmental studies are underway, and we expect to begin construction in mid 2007.

For more information, please visit the [Renton Nickel Improvement Project Web site](#).

## Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project

The Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project will improve several of the worst congestion chokepoints along the I-405 corridor. Specifically, we will:

- Add one northbound I-405 lane between I-90 and SE 8th Street
- Add one southbound I-405 lane between NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street and I-90
- Rebuild the Wilburton Tunnel

Environmental studies are underway. We had originally planned to begin construction in mid 2008, but the 2005 transportation investment package will accelerate our schedule.

For more information, please visit the [Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project Web site](#).

## How will I-5 Seattle construction affect I-405 traffic?

Crews have scheduled major construction work on southbound I-5 through downtown Seattle the weekends of May 13-16 and May 20-23. Crews will close three to four southbound I-5 lanes and several ramps from Friday night to Monday morning to replace 40-year-old pavement. Since I-405 is an alternate route for I-5, this means that traffic could be especially heavy on I-405 those weekends.

We're asking you to help by:

- planning your trips before you go
- checking [real-time traffic information](#) on our Web site or by calling 5-1-1
- taking alternate routes where available
- [forming carpools or vanpools](#)
- [riding the bus](#)
- allowing extra time
- rescheduling trips

## Legislature approves transportation funding; we're making every dollar count

The 2005 Washington State Legislature approved an \$8.5 billion statewide transportation investment package. The governor is scheduled to sign the host of these major transportation budget and revenue bills on Monday, May 9. This package means the future for the people of Washington just got better. It gets Washington moving by widening highways, improving interchanges, adding park-and-ride lots, and expanding HOV lanes. It improves safety by funding:

- median barriers, rumble strips, and guard rail improvements to prevent vehicles from leaving the traveled lane
- turn lanes to reduce accidents on single-lane roadways
- sidewalks and crosswalks to improve the safety of children going to and from school

You probably already know that this funding package includes money for critical, high-profile projects like replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct and the Highway 520 bridge and improving I-405. But you might not have yet heard about the hundreds of other important projects, large and small, in every corner of the state, that this funding package also makes possible.

As always, we are working hard to deliver quality construction projects on time and on budget to help keep Washington State people and businesses moving. Our commitment to you and all the people of Washington is clear - make every dollar count!

## About This E-mail

You received this e-mail because we thought you would want to keep up with the latest news about our work along the I-405 corridor. To opt off of this mailing list at any time, simply send an e-mail to [lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov) with "unsubscribe i-405" in the body of the message, or follow the instructions at the bottom of this message.

We plan to send these e-mail updates at least once per month. We may send them more often, but only if we have important or time-sensitive news to tell you. You can expect to receive these messages as frequently as once per week during the summer and fall construction season.

Please forward this e-mail to others who might be interested in these e-mail updates. To join our e-mail update list just send a quick e-mail to [lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov) with "subscribe i-405" in the body

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If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Laura Johnson at [JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov).